



National Institutes of Health  
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November 9, 2009

Dr. Christine Augustyniak  
U.S. National Coordinator for the  
OECD Test Guidelines Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 7509P  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Augustyniak:

We are responding to the notification from OECD requesting public comments on the proposed OECD *Draft Guidance Document on Histopathology for inhalation toxicity studies, Supporting TG 412 and TG 413 (version 28 September 2009)*, with a requested deadline of November 15, 2009. The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Acute Toxicity Working Group (ATWG) is pleased to provide additional comments on this document. We appreciate the inclusion of our comments made for the first draft of the document. We are responding on behalf of the ICCVAM and the ATWG to express their support for the Guidance Document.

We ask that you forward these comments to the OECD Secretariat for consideration by the member countries as part of the U.S. position on this document. If for some reason you propose to not agree with any of the comments as part of the U.S. position, we ask that we have the opportunity to discuss the U.S. position with you before it is finalized. We also ask that you share with us any other U.S. comments that were provided so that we can make them available to ICCVAM and the ATWG.

We believe that expeditious adoption of this proposed Guidance Document would support the collection of more reliable and, therefore, more useful, toxicological histopathology information from rodent inhalation studies. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions about the comments.

Sincerely,

William S. Stokes, D.V.M., D.A.C.L.A.M.  
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Enclosures